

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF  
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC

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SUMMATION  
of  
UNITED STATES ARMY  
MILITARY GOVERNMENT  
ACTIVITIES  
in the  
RYUKYU ISLANDS

Number 1

July-November 1946

PART IV

SOCIAL

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SECTION 1  
PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

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PUBLIC WELFARE

Dislocation of Civilian Life

1. Dislocation of civilian life as a result of the war had removed approximately 75 percent of the population from the area of its original domicile.

The disruption of civilian life began after the 10 October 1944 bombings at which time about 70,000 persons from Naha and other areas fled to Japan, principally to Kagoshima. Later during the preinvasion bombardment the people took refuge in country villages and in the hills. When the American forces occupied the islands these people were brought down from the hills and were collected in camps by the Military Government.

2. Resettlement activities between 31 October 1945 and 31 May 1946 moved 138,000 civilians into areas in which their home villages were situated. There were 125,000 persons remaining displaced from their native places on Okinawa in June, including 22,000 from Naha, 13,000 from Yontan and 12,000 from Chatan.

In July the Okinawa Civilian Government reported approximately 68,000 civilians awaiting resettlement to their former cities or villages, and 6,500 to outlying islands.

Relief

3. In July the Public Relief and Welfare Section of the General Affairs Department was combined with the Department of Labor and the latter became known as the Labor and Welfare Department. This Department is divided into a Labor Section and a Relief and Welfare Section. The transfer was instituted to provide a solution to the increasing relief rolls by re-establishing a direct relationship between labor and public relief.

4. The following figures show the monthly totals of persons on relief on the island of Okinawa:

RELIEF RECIPIENTS  
Okinawa

August	71,917
September	94,602
October	97,665
November	95,375

### Housing

5. On 1 July it was reported that more than 90 percent of the homes on Okinawa had been destroyed. Of the remaining homes 6,875 were located in the northern third of the island, 3,600 in the central area and 687 in areas south of Naha and Shuri.

6. To solve the housing needs of the people it was estimated that at least 70,000 homes had to be constructed, 25,000 of which would be necessary to house the repatriates.

7. By 1 July 18,602 small prefabricated homes were constructed under the rehousing program which began early in November 1945. During November 2,972 houses were built in the various villages, utilizing existing stocks of lumber.

### Welfare Institutions

8. By August there were 10 welfare institutions in operation on Okinawa with a total of 495 inmates. Of these approximately 40 percent were in old age homes and 60 percent in orphanages.

9. An overall consolidation program of all the institutions on Okinawa was put into effect in September and as a result the total number of institutions on the Island was reduced to seven.

### Repatriation

10. To meet the increased repatriation program in August the Department of Public Health in co-operation with the General Affairs Department opened repatriation reception centers at Costello and Kuba-Saki.

Dispensary service, camp sanitation and quarantine precautions were provided with native personnel assigned by the Okinawa Department of Public Health.

11. Over 3,600 Japanese prisoners of war were returned to their homeland in October and 3,500 were shipped in November.

12. Since 1 July there have been 88,766 Okinawans repatriated from Japan, 5,609 from Formosa, 319 from the Marianas and 431 from Hawaii.

### HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL AFFAIRS

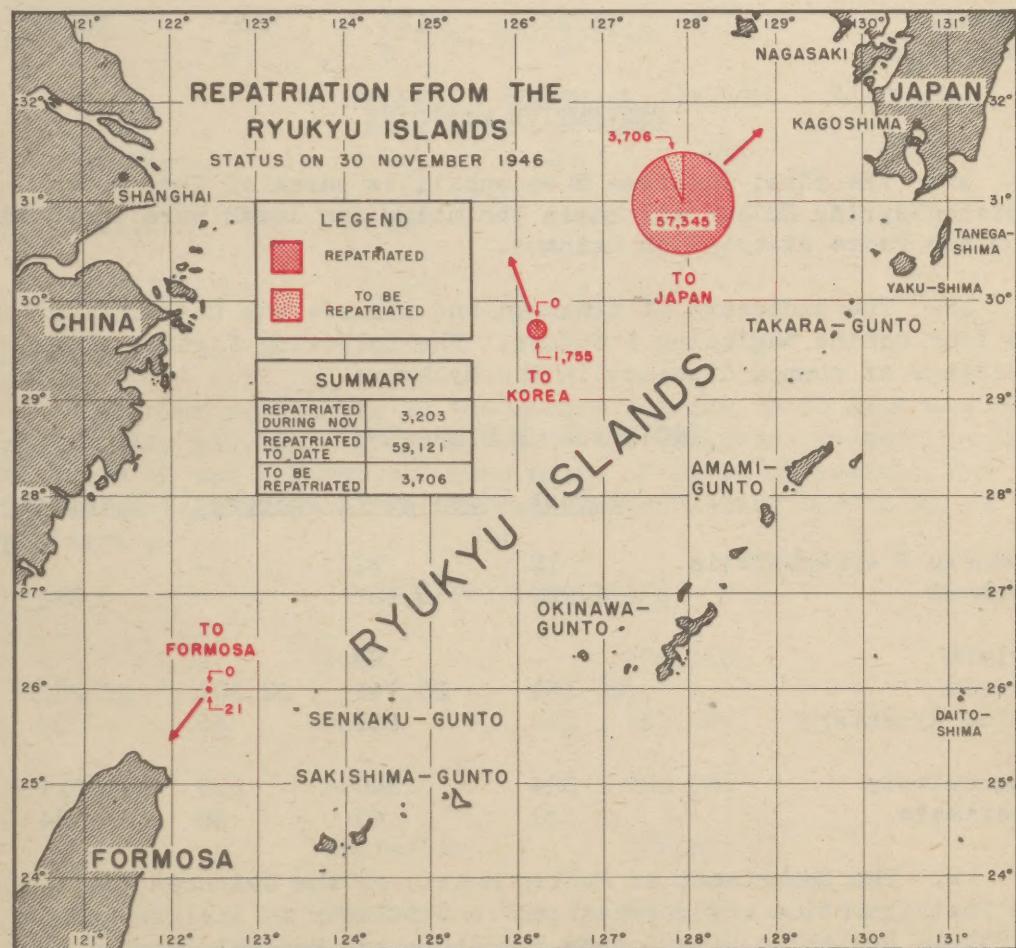
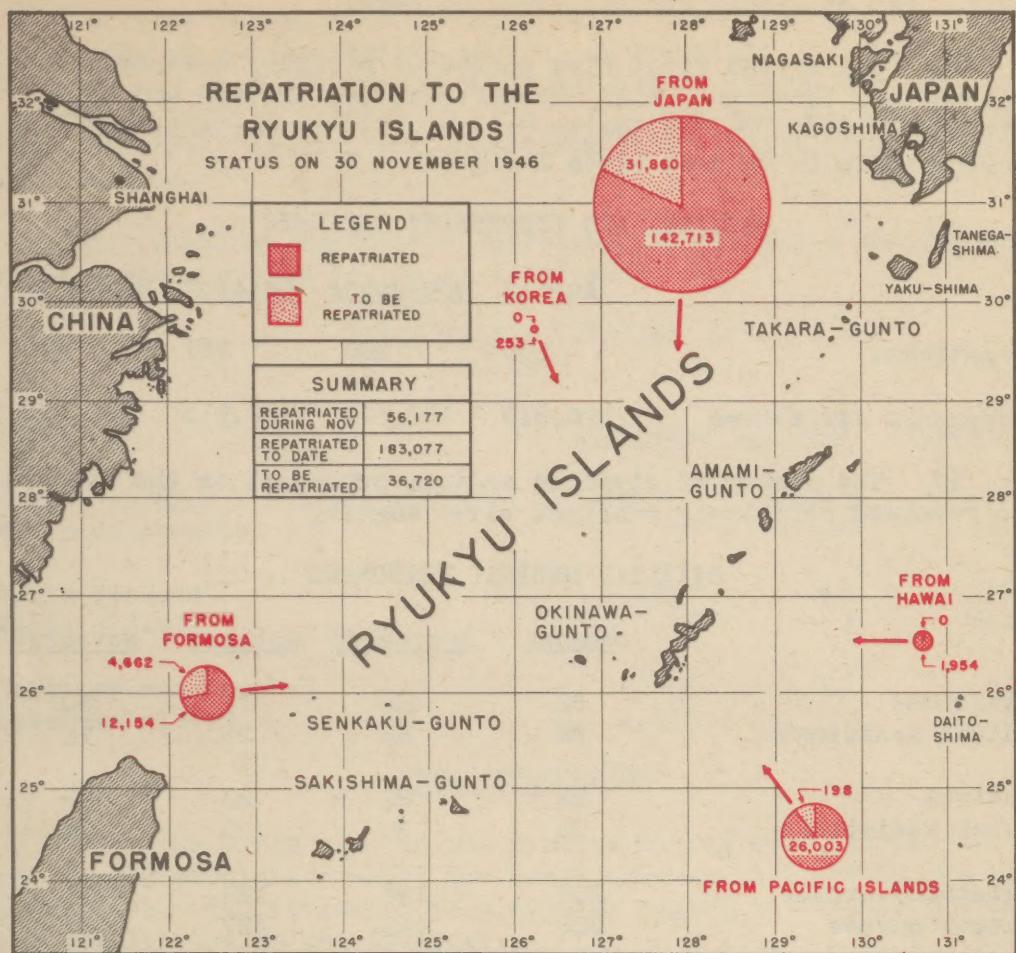
13. Military Government medical units went into operation on 1 April 1945 immediately after the civilians came under American control, and for the next six months continued direct treatment of civilian patients. At the peak of activities in July 1945 there were 20 mobile 24-bed dispensaries and two 500-bed hospitals.

14. The native medical service was first organized on a district basis with one resident Military Government officer in each of the nine districts supervising the medical and sanitary program.

The Okinawa Department of Public Health was officially established in January with cognizance over all medical activities. At the end of June the Department had 60 native doctors and a total of 1,100 hospital personnel operating 120 dispensaries.

By the end of July the Okinawa Department of Public

# REPATRIATION



SOURCE: RYKOM MG.

Health had under its jurisdiction a well equipped and permanently housed 500-bed hospital at Goya and two permanent modern dispensaries, one at Ginuza and the other at Nago.

15. During the first five months of Military Government operations the total number of out-patients was 826,488 and in-patients 30,484. The following figures show in-patients and dispensary patients in Okinawa since 1 August:

#### HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY PATIENTS

	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>
In-patients	630	620	737	669
Dispensary admissions	110,819	108,470	109,115	106,590

16. The number of civilian medical personnel in the Ryukyus has remained relatively constant since August.

#### CIVILIAN MEDICAL PERSONNEL

	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>
Physicians	62	66	71	80
Medical assistants	75	68	73	71
Dentists	22	22	23	23
Dental assistants	20	20	20	24
Registered nurses	208	196	193	201
Student nurses	322	328	327	337
Midwives	159	156	160	163
Pharmacists	7	5	5	5

#### PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

17. The first Japanese B encephalitis cases of 1946 were reported during July. All cases including one death were reported from the Taira district on Okinawa.

18. The incidence of trachoma and malaria was high during the four months beginning 1 August. The following figures show incidence of common diseases in the Ryukyus:

#### INCIDENCE OF DISEASES

	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>
Japanese B encephalitis	12	10	-	-
Trachoma	4,927	5,127	-	5,392
Cholera	-	20	0	-
Malaria	23,181	23,944	22,201	26,230
Amebic dysentery	266	629	65	50
Tuberculosis	324	346	309	314
Filariasis	59	40	36	44

19. The Department of Public Health of the Okinawan Civilian Administration was reorganized in September to include a Chief of Public Health, a Director of Hospitals and Medical Care, a Chief of Sanitation, a Chief Nurse, a Personnel Director, a Chief of Supply and a Statistician.

### Sanitation

20. The Bureau of Sanitation of the Civilian Administration has charge of all sanitation control in the eight districts of Okinawa. In July the Bureau had under its control 2,000 persons engaged in routine inspection in all villages who carried out programs of rodent control and supervised construction of drainage and latrines.

21. Civilian sanitation operations on Okinawa since September are shown by the following statistics:

#### SANITATION ACTIVITIES Okinawa

	<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>
Houses sprayed for insect control	58,966	55,563	58,117
Wells constructed	83	114	157
Wells cleaned	826	801	690
Wells closed	16	7	245
Latrines constructed	4,514	2,809	2,594
Latrines closed	1,215	-	552

#### VITAL STATISTICS

22. The birth rate in the Ryukyus during November was 7.5 per 10,000 population while the death rate was 4.4 per 10,000 population. The following is a monthly report on births, deaths and stillbirths in the Ryukyus:

#### VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>
Births	261	354	471	615
Deaths	250	314	362	356
Stillbirths	14	9	4	5

#### Population

23. The population of the Ryukyu Islands on 30 June was approximately 690,160. Forty percent were children between the ages of 1 and 15 and 7.2 percent were males of 21 to 50 years. The following figures show the increase in population caused by repatriation:

#### RYUKYUS POPULATION

June	690,160
July	692,407
August	700,086
September	727,695
October	769,367
November	817,160

